

MEMORANDUM

HAK APP'L

STAFF APP'L

HAK APP'L

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION 8655

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)

December 22, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

HAROLD H. SAUNDERS *7/62*

SUBJECT:

Message of Congratulations on King Hussein's
Marriage -- For Clearance

King Hussein is expected to marry Miss Alia Touqan on December 24 at a private ceremony in Amman. She is the daughter of a Jordanian Ambassador but because of her modern ways the marriage has stirred dispute. the King has and will designate his new wife "queen." Opposition to the marriage among key figures in Amman has subsided somewhat, and in any case the King is determined to go ahead. Nevertheless, it is a controversial step.

State Department is asking for authorization to cable the following text of a message from the President to King Hussein for delivery by Ambassador Brown when the official Jordanian announcement of the marriage is made in Amman:

"Your Majesty: Please accept my warm congratulations on your marriage and best wishes to you and your bride for future happiness and good health. Sincerely, Richard Nixon"

Recommendation: That the above message be authorized for delivery by Ambassador Brown when the official Jordanian announcement is made. [Text has been cleared by Ray Price.]

MORI C03353492

NSS, State Dept. reviews completed

Approve *[Signature]*

Other _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (GDS)



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 21, 1972

CONFIDENTIAL/EXDISMEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Message of Congratulations on
King Hussein's Marriage

We have been informed by our Embassy in Amman that King Hussein is expected to marry Miss Alia Touqan on December 24 at a private ceremony in Amman.

It is anticipated that King Hussein will divorce his present wife, Princess Muna (the former Antoinette Gardiner), but whether the divorce will take place before or after the King's marriage to Miss Touqan is not yet known (four wives are permitted under Moslem law). This marriage has stirred dispute in Jordan, both because Princess Muna is a respected figure and because Miss Touqan has had a modern upbringing by conservative Moslem standards and is from a Palestinian family. However, it appears that most of those who at first actively opposed the marriage have now acquiesced in it, albeit reluctantly in some cases.

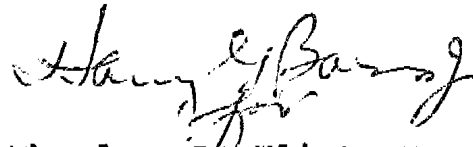
Ambassador Brown suggests that a brief message of congratulations be sent King Hussein by the President once official announcement regarding the marriage is made. Since it is not known exactly when this will be, we recommend that the Department be authorized to cable the President's message to Ambassador Brown for delivery when official Jordanian announcement of the marriage is made in Amman. In view of the still somewhat controversial nature of the marriage and the privacy in which the ceremony is being held, it is recommended that the message be brief and warm but not demonstrative. A suggested text is attached.

CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS
GDS--DECLAS Dec. 31, 1978

CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS

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We recommend that the President's message not be released to the press unless it is released by Jordanian authorities.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Suggested congratulatory message

CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE

AMMAN

EXDIS

SUBJ: MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON KING HUSSEIN'S
MARRIAGE

1. FOLLOWING SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO PALACE UPON OFFICIAL
GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT OF KING'S MARRIAGE. QUOTE:

YOUR MAJESTY: PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR MARRIAGE AND BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR BRIDE FOR
FUTURE HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH. SINCERELY, RICHARD NIXON
END QUOTE.

2. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN RELEASE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
UNLESS IT IS PUBLISHED BY JORDANIAN U#AUTHORITIES.

3. DECLASSIFICATION. GDS. 44

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